



**THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
ST. WILLIAM OF YORK**

4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS

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**Mass Times**

Saturdays 10.30am, 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sundays 9.30am, 11.30am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 9.30am

*(Please note on Thursdays the church will be open for private prayer from 9.30am-10.00am except on Holydays of Obligations & special occasions)*

**Reconciliations** - Saturdays 11-12 noon

**Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

1st & last Friday of the month after Mass & 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**

**11 FEBRUARY 2024**

Dear Parishioners

The time of Lent has returned, forty days that Christians should experience as a 'special time', a favourable time, a time of return to the Lord. This Wednesday we will start time Lent, a time of new beginning, a time that leads towards the Easter of Resurrection, the victory of Christ over death.

This time offers us a strong invitation to conversion: the Christian is called to return to God "with all my heart" (Gl 2,12), to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us, because, even when we fall, patiently awaits our return to him through reconciliation and penance.

Lent is the favourable time to grow further in our Christian journey through the holy means that the Church offers us: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the Word of God, which in this time we are invited to listen and meditate with great care and attention.

May the Holy Spirit guide us to undertake a true journey of conversion, to rediscover the gift of the Word of God, and serve Christ who is present in our brothers and sisters.

Fr Habte

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS** - Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, ! Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45

**THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** -

A leper on his knees begs Jesus to help him, saying, "If you want to, you can cure me." Jesus feels sorry for him and replies, "Of course I want to, be cured!" In showing his love for the leper, Jesus allows him to rejoin society, but then takes his place as an outcast, losing the freedom to enter any town without being mobbed. He was forced to stay in places where nobody lived: the wilderness. Jesus knew that this might happen, which is why he instructs the man to say nothing to anyone, but even knowing that it would make his own life uncomfortable, he still cared more for the wellbeing of the leper. It is in our nature that we come closest to God when we pray for help, and God loves us so much that He suffers with us in our difficult times, sharing our burdens, giving us consolation through His love, and enabling us to show that same loving consolation to others.

PB

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** - Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

**PASTORAL LETTER:** Archbishop John Wilson has sent a pastoral letter for Lent to be read at Masses this weekend, the last Sunday in ordinary time before Lent this year. Please select here [PASTORAL LETTER](#) or alternatively, you can pick a hard copy of the letter from the narthex.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - It feels like Christmas was last week and now Lent is upon us. Lent commences on **Wednesday 14th February**. There will be two Masses at 10:30am and 8:00pm. Ashes will be distributed at each Mass symbolising a forty-day period of fasting and penance.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** - On Sunday 18 February 2024 we will have just one Sunday Mass at 10.30am and Canon Victor Darlington will be presiding.

**LENT LEAFLET** In the special leaflet with today's newsletter, you will find lots of information about the meaning of Lent and some ideas for making it special.

[Lent leaflet](#)

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:** This Lent, Fr Habte and the parish RCIA team would like to invite all parishioners to take advantage of the Gospel reflections on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm, followed by light refreshments in the lower hall. Our first evening will be on **Tuesday 20th February**. All are welcome.

**STATIONS ON THE CROSS IN LENT** - There will be Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic exposition and benediction On Fridays at 10:00am after the morning Mass.

**PARISH SINGERS - NO REHEARSAL ON 15TH FEBRUARY** - The Parish Singers are taking a break for half-term and we won't be meeting on Thursday 15th February. We're back as usual each week from **Thursday 22nd February**, looking at songs for our Lent Sunday masses, as well as beginning to sing through the music for Holy Week and Easter. We welcome new people to come and join us, especially for the Holy Week and Easter services. You don't need to read music, we learn by ear. Thursday evenings, 8-9pm in church.

**LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE** will be **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7:30pm**, we also have the weekly time of confession every Saturday morning from 11:00am to 12noon.

### **THE RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION 2024**

will take place at St George's cathedral on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 12:00noon**, This marks a step forward for those who have been preparing for several months to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, that is, Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. During the service, the Church 'elects' catechumens and candidates and recognises them as being ready to receive the Sacraments.

James Lowe will be taking part in the rite of election this year, please keep him in your prayers as he continues in his journey towards receiving the sacraments.

### **CLERGY SUPPORT FUND SECOND COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND -**

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF) or scan QR code. You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri 020 7960 2504 or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of Church.



Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers

**PASSING ON THE FAITH** - How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages? Four online sessions for parents starting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 8pm – 9:30pm. And for grandparents, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, four online sessions starting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30 – 9pm. Email Lisette on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

**CARITAS SOUTHWARK ANNIVERSARY** - This March is the first anniversary of Caritas Southwark. To mark the occasion, Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass at St. George's Cathedral on **Saturday 16th March at 12.30pm**. There will be an event in Amigo Hall afterwards, highlighting some of the wonderful projects taking place in various parishes across the archdiocese. All are welcome.

### **MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

#### **July 13<sup>th</sup>, at St George's Cathedral**

If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than May 31**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Forest Hill and please copy in the parish email [foresthill@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:foresthill@rcaos.org.uk)

### **SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY 9 JUNE - PARISH FEAST DAY AND INTERNATIONAL DAY**

We look forward to this great day of celebration within our parish. Please suggest and advise us of any hymns in your language that we can all learn and sing together on the day. We encourage you to contact us as soon as possible so that we have sufficient time to learn and prepare. Please contact Maria Noronha from the music group, Fr Habte in person or Mary in the parish office, using our parish e mail or telephone number. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please pray for the Peaceful Repose of the Souls of

**CARMELA LUCHMUN RIP**

(Marina Begg's mother)

**HONORINE TIA RIP**

(Niece of Viviane Irihari-Goubo)

**RENATE BETSON RIP**

(wife of Fennell Betson)

**Renate will be received into St William of York on Monday 20 February at 4pm  
Funeral to take place on Tuesday 21 February at 11.30am**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen

**MASS ATTENDEES**

20/21 January - 371    27/28 January - 282    3/4 February - 315

**PARISH DIARY**

Sat 17 Feb 12pm	Rite of of Election & Call to Conversion	St George's Cathedral
Sun 18 Feb 5pm	Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Tues 20 Feb 8pm	RCIA Gospel Reflection Refreshments afterwards	Church Lower hall
Thurs 22 Feb 7pm	SWOY Listening Campaign Citizens UK Meeting	Cafe York
Thurs 22 Feb 8pm	Singers Practice	Church
Fri 23 Feb	CAFOD Family Fast Day	
Sat 24 Feb 9.15am	Instrumentalists	Church

**POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY** -We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

## FINANCES

### DECEMBER 2023

The monthly Offertory Collection - £1,788.53  
Donations for the Advent Homeless Collection - £2,741.14  
Donations for the Parish Crisis Fund - £398.61  
Donations for the Catholic Children's Society (Crib Collection) - £109.85  
Donations for Fr Habte's Christmas Offering - £3,758.80  
From monthly standing orders we collected - £5,602.00

Thank you for your continued support  
Please Gift Aid where possible

### ADVENT HOMELESS COLLECTION

The total collected £2,741.14 has been divided equally between 3 homeless charities:- The Passage, The Manna Society & Shelter.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

### VACANCY: FUNDRAISING & SUPPORTER CARE ASSISTANT–

Archdiocese of Southwark, Located: Bowen House, near Waterloo.  
4 days a week (£25k pro rata) office based. Seeking an enthusiastic individual to provide administrative support within the Diocesan Fundraising & Gift Aid Team.  
Deadline: 23 February 2024. Interviews: w/c 25 February 2024.  
Apply: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/get-involved/vacancies/vacancies-in-southwark/>

### PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA - 10th-16th October 2024.

Cost £765 for 7days/6nights, Twin bed and half board . This includes trips to various Holy places. Contact Juliet Eseinune 07729391661  
Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church, Balls pond road N1  
Deposit of £250 to secure flight and hotel which is non refundable .  
Full payment due by 28th February 2024



**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**

**World Day for the Sick**

**Day for the Unemployed**

**Saturday 10 February 2024**

**18:00** Ciaran Cummings

**Sunday 11 February 2024**

**09:30** Catherine O'Connell RIP

**11:30** For the Parishioners

**Monday 12 February 2024 - Feria**

**09:30** Sue Hepworth RIP

**Tuesday 13 February 2024 - Feria**

**09:30** Susanna Dereani Personal Intentions

The end of Ordinary Time before Lent

**THE SEASON OF LENT**

**Wednesday 14 February 2024**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**10:30** Renate Betson RIP

**20:00** For the Parishioners

**Thursday 15 February 2024 - Feria**

**09:30** Private Prayer

**Friday 16 February 2024 - Feria**

**09:30** Ann Henry RIP

**Saturday 17 February 2024 - Feria**

**10:30** Holy Souls

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)**

**Saturday 17 February 2024**

**18:00** For the Parishioners

**Sunday 18 February 2024**

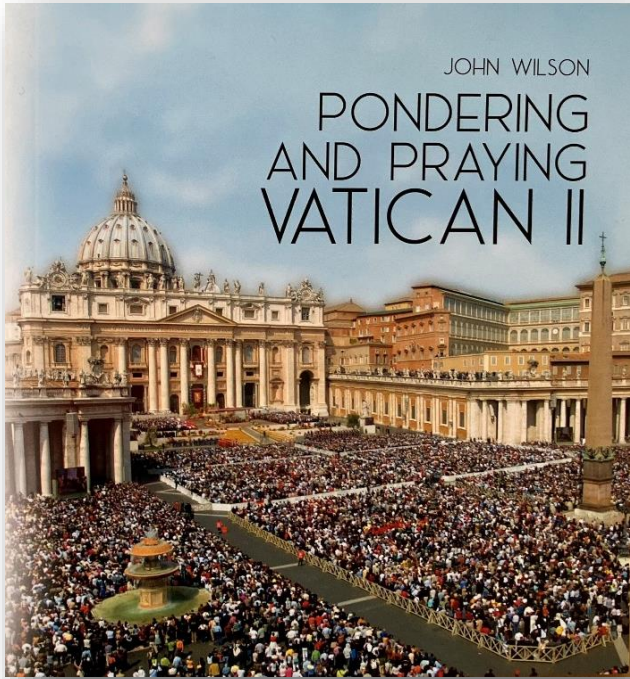
**10:30** Alan Barber RIP

(FM) Foundation Mass

Please access the live streaming by visiting our parish Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/](http://www.facebook.com/swoyse23/live/)





# Book Launch

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
6.00pm for 6.30pm

Amigo Hall, adjacent  
to St George's  
Cathedral,  
Southwark, South  
London

## Pondering and Praying Vatican II

Archbishop John Wilson

Have you heard about Vatican II, and want to know more, but are not sure where or how to begin? Then this little introduction is for you. It will help you start a journey of discovery by pondering and praying some essential themes. Please do not be daunted. This resource requires no previous or specialist knowledge. It has been written for easy access to what the Church said at Vatican II, and what this means for our life of faith in the Body of Christ.

Although many people have heard of Vatican II, few have actually read or

considered the documents, not even the four key Constitutions. This resource offers an introduction to these main texts and their themes.

*Hopefully, Pondering and Praying Vatican II* will encourage more people to read the full documents for themselves. Significantly, it will help readers ask themselves what the teaching of the Second Vatican Council might mean for them and how they might pray in light of it. Anyone can begin these reflections and see where the journey leads.

*There will be refreshments and a short presentation*  
*Books for sale on the evening, also available at*  
[www.PaulineUK.org](http://www.PaulineUK.org) and [www.Amazon.co.uk](http://www.Amazon.co.uk)

# All Welcome



Pauline  
BOOK CENTRE